COMIC SHOP NEWS™

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NECROSCOPE

Necroscope ™ & ©1992 Brian Lumley, ARR.

Let's Do the Time Warp Again

Okay, every comics fan who knows his artists can recognize the distinctive superheroic styles of Dave Stevens, Todd McFarlane, Art Adams, Kelley Jones, Steve Rude, and Matt Wagner...and every fan of the avant garde in comics recognizes the illustrative storytelling styles of Charles Burne, Paul Mavrides, Jim Woodring, the Pander Brothers, Dan Clowes, Richard Sala, and Al Columbia...and how can you overlook the unique visual approaches of Paul Chadwick, Mike Mignola, Mark Schultz, Kelley Jones, Geoff Darrow, and Mark Bode. But how distinctive are those styles when the subjects being illustrated

are not human, but are instead a motley assortment of odds and ends caught up in the background maelstrom of a Madman poster?

Madman Adventures Timewarp Poster, a November release from Tundra Press, is more than just a teaser for the ongoing Madman series beginning in December. This 19.5" x 33" full-color poster features a focal illustration of Madman by Mike Allred—but the central figure is surrounded by a whirlwind of miscellanea illustrated by all the artists listed above. According to Tundra, "Hours of fun await you, because this is not just one of the coolest art pieces of all time, but it's a contest, too! You'll have a chance to win valuable Madman prizes if you can identify who drew what on this beautiful full 'pop-art' color poster."

A month after the poster is released, Tundra will follow it up with the debut of ***Madman Quarterly***, an ongoing title featuring the absurdist hero who was the star of last spring's cult-favorite limited series. This ongoing color title will feature new stories and art by ***Madman*** creator Mike Allred.

Madman Adventures Timewarp Poster, slated for late November release, is a signed and numbered poster priced at $8.95.

by Kim B. Pearson

Scoping Out the Realm of the Dead

Horror fans, espionage fans, superhero fans, political intrigue fans, vampire fans—all of them will find something of interest in ***Necroscope,*** the new comic book miniseries adapting Brian Lumley's first ***Necroscope*** novel. According to writer Martin Powell, who's been tapped to handle the comic book adaptation, that's what makes ***Necroscope*** such an exciting project.

"It's a strange story," Powell said. "It's a horror-espionage-superhero novel. It falls into three or four different genres as you're reading it, the horror being predominant. At the same time it mixes in world politics, and a lot of things that as you're talking about them sound rather dull, but that's not the case at all... it's an almost political story in a sense, but it has plenty of monsters and vampires.... The vampires can look quite normal when they want to, but once they do what they don't want, they usually don't look very normal..."

The vampires in ***Necroscope*** are quite different than the elegant, sophisticated vampires of Lestat. These vampires can change their form because they have complete control over every cell in their bodies; furthermore, most of our vampire lore turns out to be false, a fiction created by the vampires themselves to mislead humanity.

Powell's partner on ***Necroscope*** is Daerick Gross, well known for his painted art on ***The Vampire Lestat.*** According to Gross, ***Necroscope*** "gives me a chance to venture into some new directions with art, to bring out the horrific aspects of it and present them in what I hope to be a new fashion for horror... I thought I'd do something grisly or horrible in an extreme sense and present it in a more elegant fashion and make it work."

Necroscope #1, a $2.95 comic, is scheduled for late October release.

by Wayne Lee

Showcase: Winners Find a Place To Show...

Green Lantern...Flash...Adam Strange...The Challengers of the Unknown...The Atom...The Metal Men... What do all these heroes have in common, other than the fact that they helped usher in the Silver Age? If you're a comics fan with a knowledge of history, then you recognized right away that they all got their first shots in ***Showcase,*** the prestigious try-out title that gave new concepts a home base from which they could prove their popularity and thus earn their own title. Showcase fell by the wayside some years ago; although DC offered a derivation of the concept a few years ago with its ***New Talent Showcase,*** the original title has become a part of comics history.

History sometimes repeats itself, though—and it'll do just that this November, when DC relaunches ***Showcase*** in its new incarnation, ***Showcase '93.*** The new title, which is slated as a twelve issue maxi-series, will offer an updating of the ***Showcase*** concept in a 48-page format that features three stories per issue. One story will feature a member of the Batman cast, while the other two will star characters who haven't appeared in spotlight recently; some of them are heroes under consideration for their own series, while others are characters deserving of a solo adventure.

Characters in line for ***Showcase '93*** include Catwoman, Robin, Nightwing, Two-Face, the Huntress, Blue Devil, Shining Knight, Jade & Obsidian, various members of the Justice League and the Titans, and others. Dc is calling on a variety of talent for this new series, including Doug Moench, Ed Hannigan, Dan Mishkin, Gary Cohn, Pete Moriarty, Len Wein, Phil Jiminez, and Al Vey; cover artists include Arthur Adams, Terry Austin, Brian Bolland, Jose Luis Garcia-Lopez, Michael Golden, Kevin Magure, and Mike Zeck.

The first issue of ***Showcase '93*** features the beginning of a four-part Catwoman adventure by Moench and Hannigan; the first chapter in a six-part Blue Devil storyline by Mishkin, Cohn, and Moriarty; and a Titans story starring Cyborg, courtesy of Wein, Jiminez, and Vey. ***Showcase '93 #1,*** a November 26th release, is priced at $1.95.

To help fans remember just how influential the original ***Showcase*** was in shaping the Silver Age—and to give them some great reading material in a durable format—DC is assembling a ***Showcase*** trade paperback reprint series that will debut the week after Showcase '93 is released. ***The Essential Showcase Volume One: 1956-1959*** is a 192-page volume reprinting early adventures of Flash, the Challengers of the Unknown, and Adam Strange; also included is Lois Lane's first solo story (which led to her own title) and the never-before-reprinted ***Showcase #1,*** starring Fireman Farrell. ***The Essential Showcase Volume One,*** a December 3rd release, is priced at $19.95.

If you can't wait for the second Showcase trade paperback to reprint early Green Lantern material from ***Showcase,*** you can get keep an eye out for ***Green Lantern Archives Volume One,*** a November 12th release. This $39.95 hardcover will reprint all three Green Lantern stories from ***Showcase,*** as well as the first five issues of GL's solo title.

If response to ***Showcase '93*** is good, it's very likely that fans will see a ***Showcase '94***...and a ***Showcase '95***...and a ***Showcase '96***... After all, there are always characters out there who can support their own stories but may not be able to support their own titles—and ***Showcase*** offers them a perfect place to solo.

by Cliff Biggers

COMIC SHOP NEWS™
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10 • 14 • 92
From Your Friendly Neighborhood Comics Outlet
Printed on 100% Recycled Newsprint

Superman Faces Doomsday?...

Fans said it would never happen—but it's about to, and you don't want to miss a single installment of the story arc that leads up to it. What is the fateful event to which we refer? The death of Superman!

"Superman/Doomsday," a six-part storyline that begins on October 15th in **Superman: Man of Steel #18,** is described by DC Comics as a tale that "leads to a pivotal event in the life of the Man of Steel." Doomsday is inexorably approaching Metropolis, and it looks like even Superman may be powerless to stop him. He's not going to stop trying, though... The six-part story arc continues through all the Superman family of books; **Justice League America #69**, an October 22nd release, also ties in as the JLA tries—unsuccessfully—to stop Doomsday. This is history in the making, folks, so don't miss out!...

A Base Plan Revealed In Acid Bath Case

Move over, Mongo! If you're a mystery fan, you know that Mongo is the name of *George Chesbro*'s midget detective who has starred in a number of hard-boiled detective novels. Come October, though, Mongo won't be the only midget detective on the job; he'll be joined by Nat Slammer, described by publisher Kitchen Sink Press as "a crude philosopher and a sensitive tough." Slammer is the creation of writer *Stephen Walsh* and artist *Kellie Strom;* readers will be able to meet him in his first novella-length adventure, **The Acid Bath Case.** This 48-page tale is set in the mid-1950's, a time of change in America, a time "when big business moved to take over the economy with chains and multinational corporations, and small vendors fell by the wayside," publisher *Denis Kitchen* said. "Upon this background, Walsh and Strom have grafted a bizarre, sometimes humorous, sometimes grim tale of murder in a surreal cityscape..." The story involves a mysterious serial killer who dissolves people in an acid-bath in their own bathtubs; it's up to Slammer to find the killer and stop him, even though he sometimes feel that he's losing the fight for justice.

The Acid Bath Case offers an unusual look at life in America in the 1950's—and it's all the more unusual in that it's created by two people who weren't alive in the 1950's and who aren't Americans! Both Strom and Walsh hail from Ireland—but their vision of 1950's America is strongly rooted in the noir tradition that inspired so many films and novels of that era. **The Acid Bath Case**, a 48-page magazine-sized graphic novella, is priced at $4.95.

THE ACID BATH CASE
A NAT SLAMMER STORY
Chapter 1
"SO WE FINALLY RAN DOWN THE WHALE GANG RIGHT NEAR THEIR UPTOWN HIDEOUT, AND I TOOK IT UPON MYSELF TO BRING 'EM TO BOOK. IT WAS A HOT NIGHT AND THE UNHOLY JUICES WERE FLOWIN' OUT OF EVERY CRACK IN MY CITY.
MY NAME IS NAT SLAMMER."
...NOT ENOUGH AMBULANCES, CHIEF, I TELL YA IT'S LIKE MARDI GRAS IN AN ABBATOIR UP HERE...
ICE
POLICE
1

The Death of the Undead

Dracula is an active part of the Marvel Universe nowadays—but there was a time not too long ago that it appeared that Dracula was dead and gone for good. **Requiem for Dracula**, a $2 48-page comic book, reprints the story of Dracula's final days as it originally appeared in **Tomb of Dracula** #s 69-70. Not only is it a suspenseful vampire story by *Marv Wolfman, Gene Colan,* and *Tom Palmer,* but it's also a great sidebar item for fans of Nighstalkers and Morbius. **Requiem For Dracula** is slated to reach comic shop racks on December 3rd.

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She's Our Supergal and We Love Her...

Rumiko Takahashi is described by U.S. Manga Corps as "Japan's most famous manga artist"—and when you consider that she's the creator of **Lum** and **Ranma 1/2**, both of which have been amazingly popular on both sides of the Pacific, it's easy to agree with the description. Fans of those two works will be thrilled to hear that the latest Takahashi creation to come to America will reach comic book shops in November. **The Supergal** is the first of four stand-alone **Rumik World** titles that US Manga Corps is bringing to American audiences; like all Takahashi creations, it combines action-adventure with clever humor in a way guaranteed to entertain manga fans.

The Supergal is the story of Maris, a Thanatosian whose strength and abilities are far greater than those of mortal men (say, haven't we heard that phrase before?...). She wears an exotic alloy restraint to help control her strength—but even with the restraint, her incredible abilities continue to act as more of a curse than a blessing as the wreaks havoc everywhere she goes, destroying almost anything she touches...including her own spaceship. Maris alone would be enough to sustain an entertaining film, but her supporting cast is equally offbeat; for example, there's Murphy, a fox-like creature who can turn himself into nine of almost anything...

The Supergal, a fifty-minute $39.95 subtitled manga video available in VHS format, is scheduled for November release; US Manga Corps warns viewers in advance that they shouldn't switch the videotape off once the credits begin to roll, since the credits feature animated "out-takes" funnier than anything you've seen recently in live-action film. (Oh, and if the videotape isn't enough, Viz Comics intends to publish a comic book version of **The Supergal** in December...)

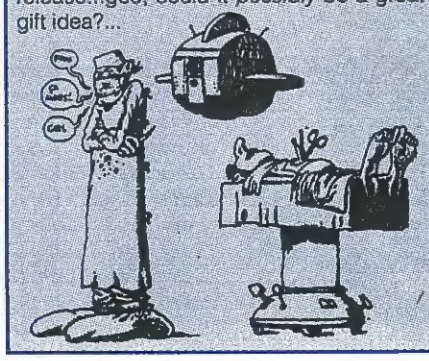
Speaking of Takahashi, her most famous creation **Lum** is also coming to comic shops in November in a new video release, **Urusei Yatsura Movie 2: Beautiful Dreamer**. This full-length 90-minute subtitled videotape is based on a Japanese science-fiction/romance series that has a larger following in Japan than **Star Trek** has here! **Beautiful Dreamer** is also scheduled for November release from US Manga Corps.

Shatner Has a Change of Planets

William Shatner had a rare experience last month: he was able to travel to another planet without ever leaving Earth. The other planet, in this case, was Planet Hollywood, the swank restaurant owned by some of Hollywood's best-known action-movie stars. Shatner made an appearance at Planet Hollywood to promote the launch of his new **Tekworld** series from Marvel Comics; Shatner told a very enthusiastic audience how the comic book came about and explained the process of comic book production. Shatner confirmed that **Tekworld,** the story of a high-tech-"drug"-battling detective in the year 2020, will expand into original stories once the initial five-part novel adaptation is completed. Response to Marvel's **Tekworld** series has been very favorable thus far, with sellouts reported across the country.

Marvel Markets Moebius' Metallic Memories

Last year, Marvel offered *Moebius* fans **Chaos,** a 96-page hardcover featuring previously unseen Moebius artwork, sketches, and short stories. *This* year, Marvel follows it up with **Metallic Memories**, another 96-page Moebius hardcover. This year's volume features more Moebius art, along with short serials seen for here for the first time in the US. The volume is designed to complement **Chaos,** making it a handsome addition to any comic fan's bookshelf. **Metallic Memories**, an $18.95 hardcover, is scheduled for November 26th release...gee, could it *possibly* be a great gift idea?...



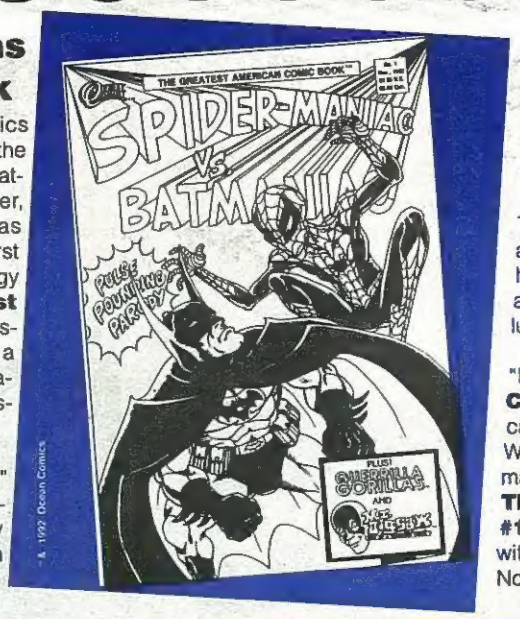
This Canary's Not Yellow

Even before the first **Black Canary** miniseries was completed, DC was so pleased by fan response that they knew a **Black Canary** ongoing series was inevitable. November is the month that the inevitable happens: **Black Canary #1** debuts on November 19th, courtesy of the same author who made the miniseries so successful. *Sarah E. Byam,* who also wrote the acclaimed **Billi 99** series from Dark Horse, is joined by artists *Trevor Von Eeden* and *Bob Smith.* The first three-issue story arc, entitled "Hero Worship," features a confrontation between Dinah Lance and an underworld mastermind whose schemes have led to a rash of homicides in Seattle; the Black Canary must stop him before even more deaths occur. **Black Canary #1** is priced at $1.75.

QUICKSHOTS

Ocean's Flood Begins With Anthology Book

Back in the early 1960's, Marvel Comics caused a bit of a stir when they blurbed the **Fantastic Four** as "The World's Greatest Comic Magazine." This November, Ocean Comics hopes to create just as much of a stir when they release the first issue of their new experimental anthology book modestly entitled **The Greatest American Comic Book**. The first issue of this new series will lead off with a satirical tale, "Spider-Maniac Vs. Batmaniac," written by *S.A. Bennett* and illustrated by *Dave Garcia* and *Bill Pearson*.



The second feature is "Reality Check," starring Guerrilla Gorillas in a story written by *Bob Palin* and illustrated by *Grass Green*. According to Palin, "With this concept, we're going after the same audience that made the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles a success. In other words, we're looking to appeal to a wide audience, especially young boys who like to buy lots of action-oriented toys and comic books."

The third feature stars Mr. Jigsaw, a character with almost ten years of history behind him. "The Apartment," a Mr. Jigsaw adventure, is written by *Ron Fortier* and illustrated by *Gary Kato*.

"I referred to **The Greatest American Comic Book** as an experimental showcase anthology and that's exactly what it is. We'll be experimenting with concepts, formats, genres, and even pricing," Palin said. **The Greatest American Comic Book #1,** a $2.50 38-page black and white comic with a full-color cover, is scheduled for late November release.

The Spider and the Skull

Black Widow fans (and we know that there are lots of you out there) take note: the Black Widow is starring in a new graphic novel this December, her first major appearance since her role in an **Iron Man** storyline in the pre-Tony-Stark-death-days. Oh, sure, the Punisher gets top billing on the listing...but it'll be hard for him to hold everyone's attention when the Black Widow enters the picture. **Punisher & Black Widow: Spinning Doomsday's Web,** written by *Dan Chichester* and illustrated by *Larry Stroman* and *Mark Farmer*, puts the deadly duo on the trail of a scientist who has developed a bomb far more deadly than anything hitherto devised. The Black Widow wants to stop him; the Punisher wants to kill him. While their goals aren't exactly the same, they nevertheless decide that it's best for them to join forces...and before too long, they get even more assistance from Nick Fury and SHIELD. **Spinning Doomsday's Web**, a December 3rd release, is priced at $9.95.

Opening the Files

Fans have been seeing a lot of Stryfe in the twelve-part "X-Ecutioner's Song" storyline that began in early September; this November, Marvel fans will discover just how much Stryfe knows about his mutant opponents when Marvel opens **Stryfe's Strike File** to every mutant fan.

Stryfe's Strike File is a 32-page one-shot that features the contents of Stryfe's databank on the X-Men and other mutants. Readers can join Professor X as he scans the file, discovering that Stryfe has assembled an amazingly complete dossier on the team. **Stryfe's Strike File,** written by *Fabian Nicieza* and *Scott Lobdell*, is more than an "X-Ecutioner's Song" tie-in; it also serves as a great reference work for X-Men fans—and it introduces four new villains who will be threatening the mutants in 1993.

Stryfe's Strike File #1, featuring all-new art by the current art teams of the various X-books, will debut on November 5th; the $1.75 comic will feature a metallic ink cover and no ads.

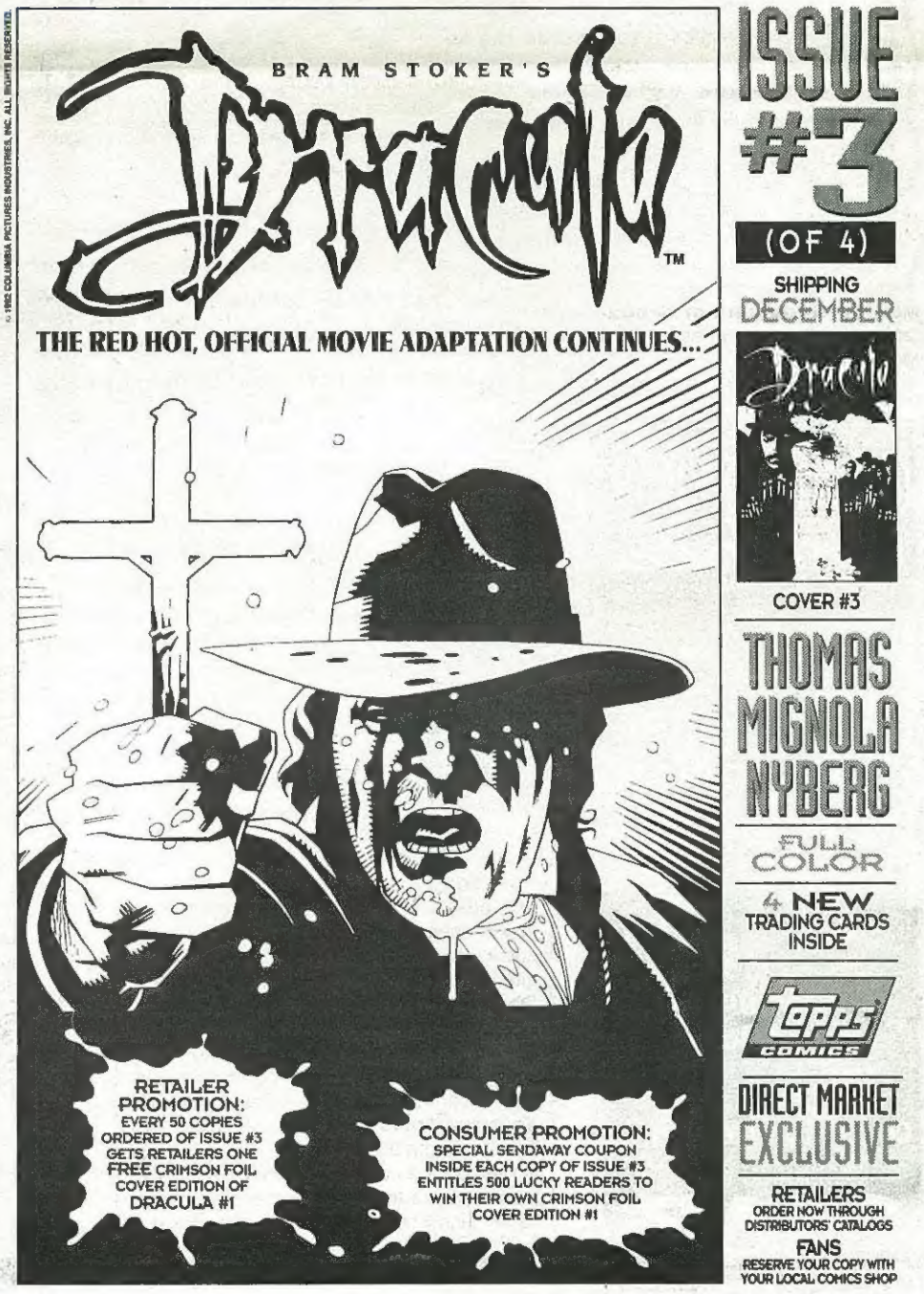
Miniseries Spotlights An Exercise In Futility

The battle of Khe Sanh, a 77-day siege that cost almost 2000 American and Vietnamese lives, was one of the most futile struggles in the Vietnam War. After two and a half months of continuous struggle, the Americans and the South Vietnamese won the battle and held onto Khe Sanh—only to be ordered to abandon it a scant two months later.

Vietnam Journal: Bloodbath at Khe Sanh is a four-issue limited series that depicts the struggle to hold onto Khe Sanh at all costs. The story is told through the eyes of Vietnam Journal narrator Scott "Journal" Neithammer, who shows the battle as it appeared to one not actually involved in the fighting. The miniseries is written and illustrated by **Vietnam Journal** creator *Don Lomax*, frequently praised for his realistic, no-holds-barred look at the American struggle in Southeast Asia. **Vietnam Journal: Bloodbath at Khe Sanh #1**, a November release, is priced at $2.75.

It's a Lot Easier Than Hanging Cards...

Marvel Universe Series III Cards sold out from Skybox in a matter of weeks; stores are already getting premium prices for any cards still unsold. And with the third series running two-hundred cards, a lot of fans were unable to complete a set before the entire run sold out. Here comes Marvel to the rescue, though; in November, Marvel is publishing a pair of posters that depict the entire card run. **Marvel Universe Series III Trading Card Posters** I and II each feature a hundred cards printed on an oversized 25" x 35" poster; put 'em both together and you have an easy and affordable way to enjoy all that great art without having to flip through your card files. Look for both posters on November 26th.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Do-It-Yourself Interviews

Comic fans always seem to enjoy interviews with comic creators—but **Comics Journal #155** offers an interesting variation on the ordinary interview when the two interview subjects interview one another! *Neil Gaiman* and *Dave McKean*, friends and co-creators who have worked together on Sandman and other projects, offer fans a chance to sit in on a conversation between the duo as they talk about comics creating, including both past works and upcoming creations. **Comics Journal #155,** a 100-page magazine priced at $4.95, is scheduled for November release.

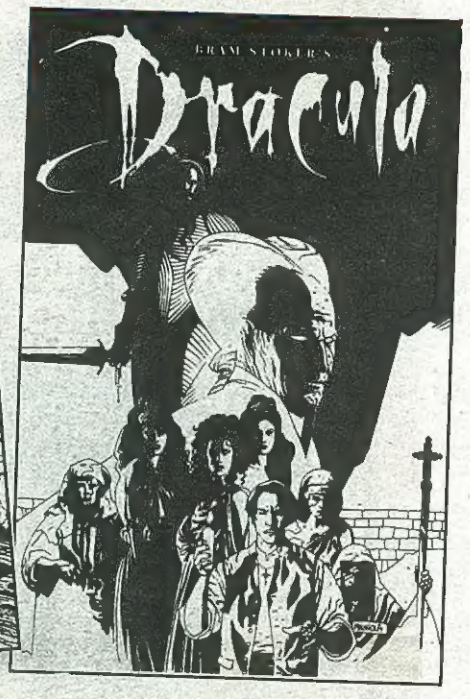
A Kindra-ed Spirit In Three Dimensions

Kindra, the popular female fantasy heroine, is the second Fleetway-Quality character to appear in three dimensions in Fleetway-Quality's new resin statuette series. *Janine Bennett* has sculpted the **Kindra: Warrior of the Blood Figure,** which has then been molded in five easily connected pieces; only the highest grade of industrial tooling resin has been used for durability and detail. The finished figure, which is priced at $49.95, stands over five inches tall and is suitable for painting, should you be so inclined; look for it in December. As with all specialty items of this sort, you might want to let the friendly folks at your local comic shop know that you're interested...and tell 'em that **CSN** sent you, okay?...

OCTOBER HOT PICKS

by cliff biggers

Fall's here in force—and that means shorter days and longer nights...which also means more reading time. The publishers are certainly willing to accomodate you; they're so accomodating, in fact, that you'll find more than eight hundred comics and comics-related items to choose from in the month of October alone. With choices that numerous, a handy-dandy Top Two Dozen (plus two—hey, it's a busy month!) list may help salvage what's left of your budget as the holiday season approaches...



BLUE WITCH OF OZ

Now here's a hot pick that's years in the making. Well, that's not quite accurate—it's years in the publishing, although it's been made for quite a while insofar as creator Eric Shanower is concerned. This superb ***Oz*** graphic novel was originally scheduled for publication a couple of years ago from First Comics, but the company's implosion left its fate (as well as the fate of all the ***Oz*** backlist) in doubt. Now, at last, Dark Horse Comics has become the wonderful wizard of Oz, freeing the trapped graphic novel so that it can make its way into the comic shop. ***Oz*** fans have made solid sales successes of Shanower's earlier graphic novels; this one will be no exception. If absence makes the heart grow fonder, it may be a surprise sleeper of the month... *(Dark Horse, $9.95)*

DEADMAN: EXORCISM 1

Now *here's* a Deadman for you... Mike Baron and Kelley Jones have created a Deadman who firmly accepts his role as a dead man; in fact, he's become little more than a vicious poltergeist, possessing others in suc a way as to cause the most trouble. The Jones version of Deadman is creepier than ever; it's a perfect Halloween costume come to illustrative life. Jones' Batman-Dracula graphic novel ***Red Rain*** proves that there are no horror artists currently working who can surpass him. This is going to be the primo Halloween comic! *(DC, $4.95)*

DEATH'S HEAD II 1

We'll wait here a minute while you run to your local comic shop and try to buy a copy of ***Death's Head II #1***, the miniseries premiere from earlier this year...

doop de doop de doop....

You're back?... What's that? No copy of ***Death's Head II #1*** to be had for less than twenty bucks—if you can find one at all? Okay, no you know why every fan who missed out on the miniseries (as well as those who were lucky enough to latch onto a copy) is going to have to have a copy of the first issue of ***Death's Head II***'s ongoing series. (Marvel, $1.75)

DEATH'S HEAD II/KILLPOWER: BATTLETIDE 1

Remember ***Contest of Champions***? It featured three issues of superheroes and supervillains slugging it out, and fans loved it. Well, ***Battletide*** should sound very familiar, because it's the same basic concept; this time, though, the superheroes and the supervillains are transported to a world where warfare is a way of life. This book has no subtleties, no nuances of characterization—and that means that a lot of fans are going to love its unpretentious ***Destroy!***-like action. *(Marvel, $1.75)*

DRACULA 1

There's no shortage of high-quality horror for the Halloween month, is there? Roy Thomas, Mike Mignola, and John Nyberg join forces to present a moody, compelling ***Dracula*** unlike anything that comics fans have seen before—or movie fans, for that matter, since this comic is an adaptation of the upcoming Francis Ford Coppola film. Since each issue is polybagged along with a premium ***Dracula*** trading card, these books are going to disappear faster than vampires at sunrise... *(Topps, $2.95)*

HERBIE 1

Now here's a *really* heavy seller... Herbie Popnecker, the Fat Fury, flies again in this series that merges classic Hughes-Whitney reprints and clever new tales by the likes of John Byrne and Bob Burden. The last time that a publisher tried to resurrect ***Herbie,*** the effort was plagued by black and white printing and second-rate reproduction; this time, Dark Horse will do it right. There's never been a more clever superhero spoof; a lot of readers are going to want to find out why ***Herbie*** remains a favorite of pros and older fans alike. *(Dark Horse, $2.50)*

october's overlooked sizzler

Larry Marder's ***Beanworld*** has always been one of the quirkiest titles in the ocmics market; in an industry that seems to emphasize art over story, Marder's simple visual style accentuates his intriguing stories that refuse to toe the popular-comics line. A lot of fans haven't been able to enjoy Marder's early issues because they're almost impossible to find; now, though, Eclipse has gathered several of them together in the long-awaited ***Larry Marder's Beanworld Book 2.*** The first volume is also available; each of them is a welcome breath of fresh air for fans who are tired of standard comics fare. *(Eclipse, $9.95)*

INCREDIBLE HULK 400

This is quintessential Hulk action: it's the Hulk versus the Leader, with control of the Pantheon riding in the balance. Of course, Peter David and Jan Duursema are going to give readers far more than their money's worth in this book—but it's the holografix foil that's going to give this book a much shorter half-life than gamma radiation. *(Marvel, $2.50)*

tales of the bean world

INVISIBLE PEOPLE PART 3: MORTAL COMBAT

Will Eisner returns to a theme he loves—the overlooked members of society— in ***Mortal Combat*** and presents it in a graphic novel installment that focuses on the plight of a common man caught in a struggle between powers far greater than his own...in this case, it's the pow-

THEY SAY A GREAT ARTIST PUTS HIS SOUL INTO HIS WORK.

Obviously we put a great deal into the new Marvel Masterpieces Collector Cards. This limited-edition 100-card series coming in October is captivating, to say the least. Five bonus cards with a never-before-seen design process plus sealed, numbered boxes make this set one you won't want to miss.

MARVEL Masterpieces™ COLLECTOR CARDS

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OCTOBER HOT PICKS

er of two women, his mother and his girlfriend. Loneliness, love, alienation, affection, family—all of Eisner's favorite subjects are here. You can't get a work that epitomizes the man's modern output any better than this. *(Kitchen Sink, $3.95)*

MARVEL MASTERPIECES SERIES 1

Listing these cards on our Hot Picks list is probably sufficient; after all, what can we say that you can't figure out for yourself? The first three series of Skybox's ***Marvel Universe*** cards have sold out and are commanding premium prices; the various publications featuring ***Marvel Masterpieces*** promo cards have also sold out in record time. Since these cards, each featuring a painted illustration by Joe Jusko, are the highest-quality Skybox Marvel cards yet—and since they're limited to a total production of only 17,500 cases—they're sure to disappear from the shelves in weeks. *(Skybox, $1.25/pack)*

MISHKIN FILE 1

Fans love *roman a clef* stories—even if they don't know what they are. A *roman a clef* tale presents real characters and situations with altered names; that's just one aspect of ***Mishkin File #1*** that makes this book such a sizzling read. Its primary asset is Kim Deitch's right-on-target analysis of the symbiotic relationship between the creator and his creation. This is a thinking fan's comic...and we have a sneaking suspicion that a lot of comic shops have underestimated how many thinking fans there are out there... *(Fantagraphics, $2.95)*

NECROSCOPE 1

Gee, with all these great horror titles debuting this month, you'd think it was nearing Halloween or something!... In the hierarchy of horror authors, Lumley may not rank with King, Koontz, Barker, or McCammon, but he is nevertheless a respected, popular, and talented author whose work sells hundreds of thousands of copies. This month, Malibu brings one of his most popular novels, ***Necroscope,*** to comics in a superlative adaptation. Necroscope is sure to appeal to horror fans who enjoy Clive Barker and Anne Rice adaptations; it may well be underordered by some retailers who are unfamiliar with Lumley's work. *(Malibu, $2.95)*

PREDATOR VS. MAGNUS ROBOT FIGHTER 1

In the past few months, Valiant's status in the comics industry has soared as fans have discovered their high-quality comics; this Valiant-Dark Horse crossover will benefit greatly from that increased popularity, as a lot of fans latch onto the book not only because of the intriguing nature of its story, but also because of the hot status of its characters. ***Predator Vs. Magnus Robot Fighter*** may not equal the phenomenal sales figures of last year's Batman Vs. Predator—but you can expect it to be most sizzling seller from either company this month. *(Dark Horse/Valiant, $2.95)*

art of the month

spectre 1

PRIMAL 1

What a surprise—*another* horror title on the October Hot Picks list! This time, it's one of comics premiere horror authors, Clive Barker, who's responsible for the comic in question—and this is a particularly significant Barker series, because it's a piece totally original to comics. That's right—this isn't an adaptation of a novel or a short story, but an original comics piece created by Barker. ***Primal*** the series picks up where ***Primal*** the graphic novel left off; the story has already been optioned for film because of the strength of its archetypal horror elements. *(Dark Horse, $2.95)*

RAVAGE 2099 1

It's a new Marvel 2099 series. It's written by Stan Lee. It features an all-new character rather than a futuristic updating of a contemporary concept. It has a foil-embossed cover. And it's not likely to be on the shelves two weeks after its release. So what are you waiting on, an invitation?... Latch onto a copy while you can! *(Marvel, $1.75)*

SIGNAL TO NOISE

This graphic novel by Neil Gaiman and Dave McKean has never before been available to American readers—although a few lucky fans have eagerly paid $40 to $50 for an import copy of the thought-provoking British import. Now everyone can enjoy it for a fraction of that cost; with the increased interest in Gaiman's work in the light of his ultra-successful ***Sandman*** trade paperbacks, this book will be a must-have for every fan who likes to see creators push the limits of the art form. *(Dark Horse, $11.95)*

SPAWN 6

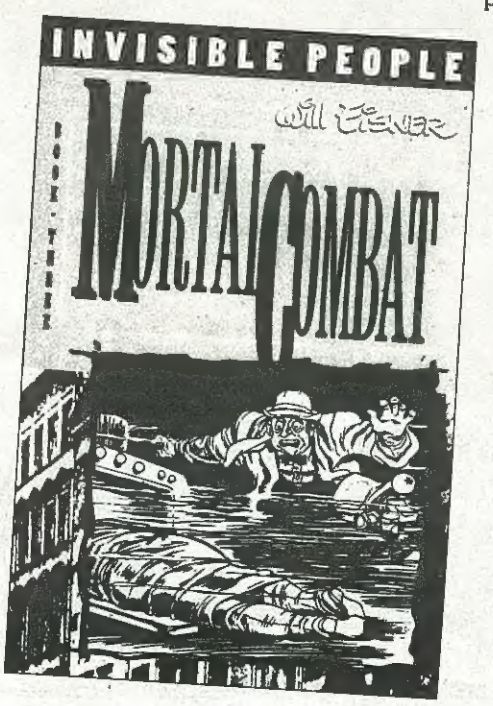
Every issue of ***Spawn*** is phenomenally popular; add to ***Spawn***'s inherent popularity the sure-fire appeal of a character created by McFarlane, Liefeld, and Stan Lee and you have a must-have item for Image fans. After all, when was the last time you saw Stan Lee's name associated with *anything* that didn't have a Marvel logo on it?... *(Image, $1.95)*

SPECTRE 1

This incarnation of the Spectre (no pun intended...but we'll make take advantage of it nevertheless) owes much more to Michael Fleisher's version that appeared in ***Adventure Comics*** a while back than to more current interpretations—but in this era of "grim 'n' gritty" comics, that's sure to add to the character's appeal. Think of this Spectre as a Punisher from beyond the grave and you can see why he's going to be such a success this time around. Of course, that glow-in-the-dark cover sure isn't going to hurt matters any... *(DC, $1.95)*

SWAMP THING 125

Swamp Thing keeps plugging along as one of DC's best-written horror titles; alas, Nancy Collins has to live in the looming shadow of Alan Moore, which means that a lot of readers haven't given her moody, evocative ***Swamp Thing*** a fair shake. With this anniversary issue, though, Swamp Thing fans will discover just how



OCTOBER HOT PICKS

strong Collins' interpretation is as Anton Arcane returns. ***Sandman*** fans will be interested in the peripheral Sandman tie-in in this story... *(DC, $2.95)*

TIMBER WOLF 1

This is the book that's likely to be Joe Phillips' first big superhero hit; while Phillips has previously done his best work in the horror genre, he really cuts loose this time with a dynamic, energetic storytelling style that superhero fans are going to love. And since Timber Wolf can be thought of as the Legion of Super-Heroes' answer to Wolverine, there's a certain character appeal as well. Al Gordon is packing this series with new superheroes, so fans of a certain series of mutant titles are also likely to enjoy it. *(DC, $1.25)*

WEB OF SPIDER-MAN 95

GHOST RIDER & BLAZE: SPIRITS OF VENGEANCE 5

Ghost Rider, Johnny Blaze, Spider-Man, and Venom, all in one storyline that spans four issues and two titles. ***Spirits of Vengeance*** has been a sizzling title for Marvel since its debut, but ***Web of Spider-Man*** has generally been one of the second-tier Spidey books; fans who have been overlooking ***Web of Spider-Man*** are going to have to pay attention now...or they'll have to pay high prices later on. *(Marvel, $1.25 $ $1.75)*

WETWORKS 1

Here's Image Comics' debut title of the month; Wetworks features Whilce Portacio super-action that surpasses anything his fans ever saw in his Marvel work. If you pass on this the first time you see it, don't call us crying when you can't find it a week later. *(Image, $1.95)*

UNCANNY X-MEN 295

X-MEN 15

X-FACTOR 85

X-FORCE 17

If you noticed how quickly the first four installments of **X-Ecutioner's Song** disappeared from the racks, then you already know that these books are going to be scorchers. The bonus trading cards guarantee that this quartet of titles won't tie up shelf space for long... *(Marvel, $1.50@)*

LAST WEEK **CSN** FEATURED THE COMPLETE OCTOBER CHECKLIST. IF YOU MISSED THIS, GOOD LUCK MAKING IT THROUGH THE REST OF THE MONTH!

NEXT WEEK **CSN** WILL FEATURE REVIEWS OF SOME UPCOMING COMICS THAT YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS!

COMIC SHOP NEWS

MISS A WEEK AND YOU MISS A LOT!

Have you seen anything in this issue of ***Comic Shop News*** that you can't live without? Make sure you don't miss it; clip this handy coupon and write down the things that you want you comics shop owner to be sure to get for you!

Name_____ Phone _____

I gotta have 'em! Please reserve for me the following items mentioned in ***Comic Shop News!***

_____

_____

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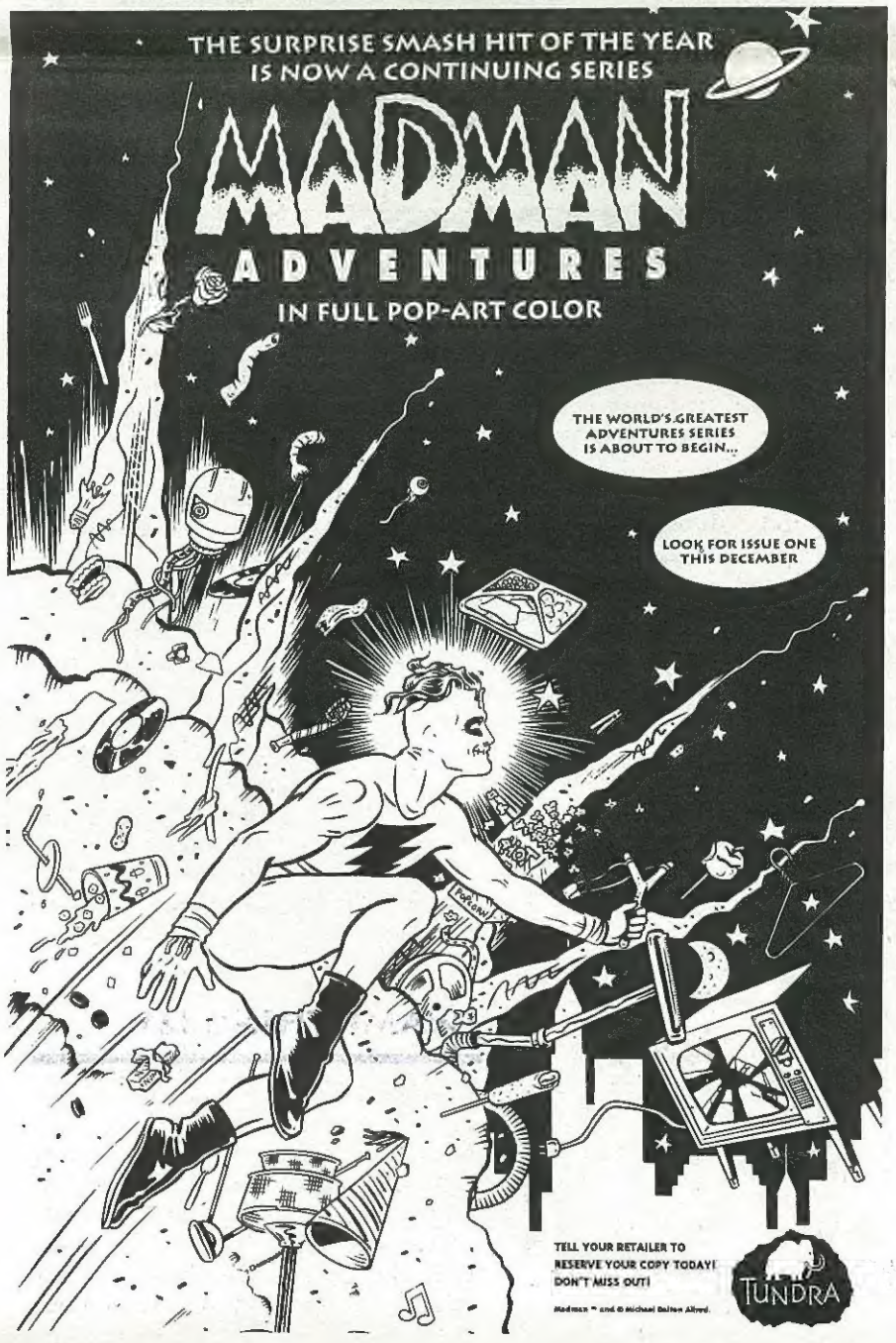
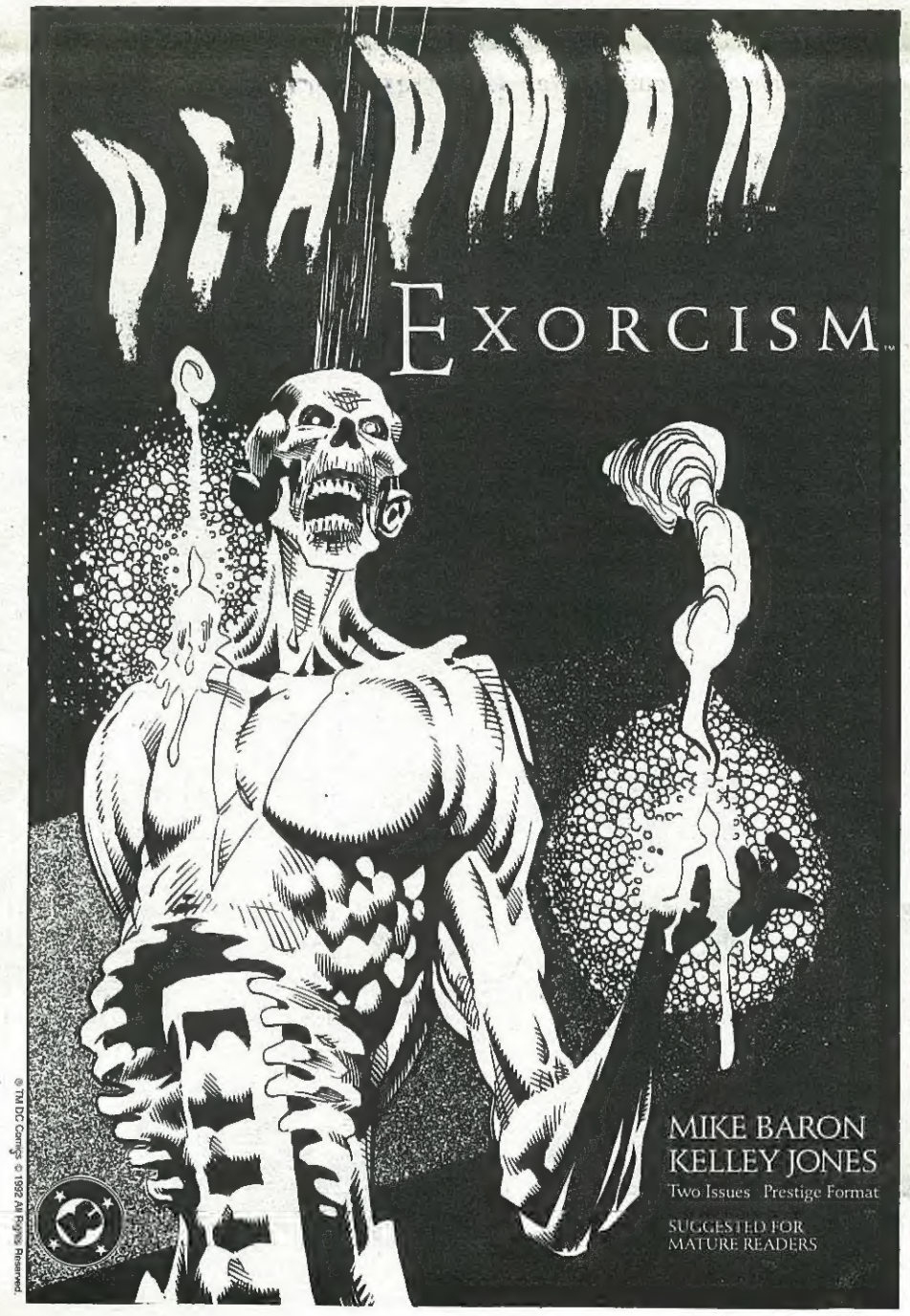
Be sure to give this to your retailer. Do not send it to ***CSN!*** Your comics shop will make every effort to get the items you want; some items may require a down payment before your shop owner can get them for you; be sure to ask!


THE SURPRISE SMASH HIT OF THE YEAR
IS NOW A CONTINUING SERIES
MADMAN
ADVENTURES
IN FULL POP-ART COLOR
THE WORLD'S GREATEST ADVENTURES SERIES IS ABOUT TO BEGIN...
LOOK FOR ISSUE ONE THIS DECEMBER
TELL YOUR RETAILER TO RESERVE YOUR COPY TODAY! DON'T MISS OUT!
Madman ™ and © Michael Dalrow Allred.
TUNDRA



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DOOM 2099 #1!
Foil-stamped premiere of Doom!

SLAPSTICK #3!
"Do you expect me to talk, Dr. Denton?"
"No, Mr. Slapstick, I expect you to die!"

SPIDER-MAN #30!
Continuing part 2 of
"Return to Mad Dog Ward!"

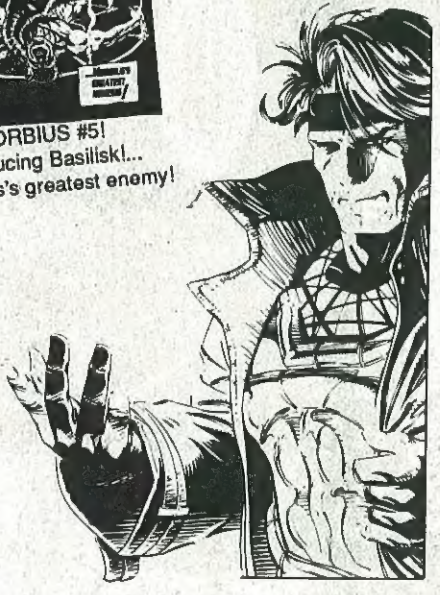
HULK #401!
Revealed at last:
the secret of Agamemnon!

X-MEN ADVENTURES #3!
A major confrontation with Magneto!

THE WEDDING OF DRACULA!
We're talking about love at first bite!

MORBIUS #5!
Introducing Basilisk!...
...Morbius's greatest enemy!

MARVEL TALES #269!
Spidey rescues the Black Fox from
Red Ghost and his Super Apes!



Marvel Comics Shipping The Week Of November 17th